



Holmfirth Traffic and Market Hall Survey

Results and initial,
summary, findings

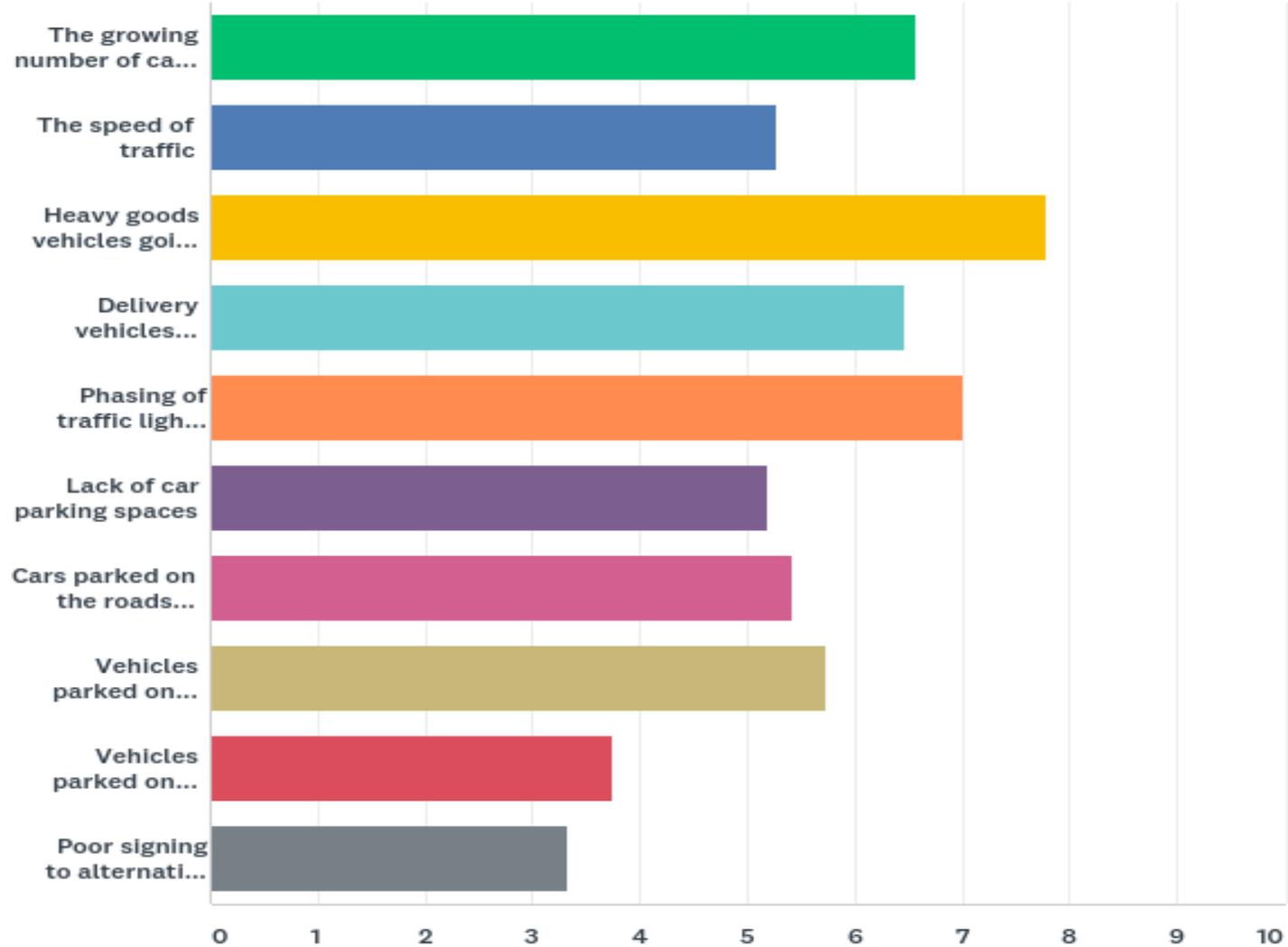


The Survey

- Designed, by Holme Valley South Labour Party, to **capture local people's ideas** about the 'issues relating to traffic in Holmfirth', and their thoughts on the future of a Market in Holmfirth.
 - **Circulated widely** via a large number of local networks.
 - Completed on line using Survey Monkey App by **392 respondents (89% over 35 and 60% female)**
 - The **quantitative data** derived from the Survey are reported here, with **some exemplar commentary**
 - Some **initial, summary, findings**, based on these data, are provided for consideration
 - **A summary document, following further discussion and feedback**, will produced. This will be sent to Kirklees Council, Ward Councillors, Parish Council, The Highways Dept. and be posted on Social Media sites related to the Holmfirth Community
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Question One

Q1 Please rank the following issues in order of significance





Q1 – **relevance of factors** (in the survey)



In summary there are **THREE main issues** which respondents identified as primary factors (rated 1, 2 or 3 by respondents) relating to ‘traffic problems’.

- **One - Heavy goods vehicles** going through town (67.57% - 250)
- **Two - Phasing of Traffic Lights** (47.03% - 174)
- **Three - ‘Parking issues’** 74.57% of total responses (approx. 20% of respondents) ranked ‘parking’ of some sort as ‘important’ (1,2 or 3). i.e. the responses to questions relating to ‘Parking’, taken together.

Cars parked on the roads approaching the town centre (18.52% - 68)

Lack of car parking spaces (21.04% - 77)

Vehicles parked on Victoria Street outside the bays (26.1% - 95)

Vehicles parked on Victoria Street in the marked bays (8.91% - 33)





Q2 What do you think should be done to **ease these problems and improve the traffic situation?**



Comments related to a wide variety of issues. The **most highly rated options** (frequency of word mention) were :

Traffic Lights 29.65% (110)



“ ... Better phasing of traffic lights at Victoria street junction to allow traffic from Woodhead Road to go straight on when traffic lights from Huddersfield road are green....”



“... Introduce traffic lights at the Dunford Road Junction to be phased in conjunction with those at Victoria Street Junction.”



“ Change priority so all traffic for Holmbridge and A635 goes on Hollowgate and Traffic for Huddersfield turns right at Victoria traffic lights with no left turn at all there..... “ .





Victoria Street 14.56% (54)



“ ... Remove the parking down Victoria Street for all vehicles - including the Taxi waiting area (just use Taxi waiting outside the Post Office)... ”



“ ... Make all traffic on Hollowgate one way only from Victoria Street . Extend Rotcher to meet Victoria Street to still provide an exit for cars coming down Rotcher ...”

“ ... Introduce a pelican crossing in Victoria Street to replace zebra crossing and make the phasing of these lights work in conjunction with the traffic lights at Victoria street junction ...”



“ ... Make Victoria Street a 'clear way' (no parking or stopping) ...”

“ ... Deliveries before 08.00 on Victoria street ... ” (7% approx. of respondents mention 'deliveries' as an issue)





HGV 8.63% (32)

Heavy Goods Vehicles 5.66% (21)

Lorries 4.58% (17)

“ ... No HGV unless delivering. ... ”

“ ... HGV weight limit through Holmfirth ... ”

“ ... HGVs redirected away from Holmfirth entirely ... ”

“ ... a size or weight limit to stop really big vehicles trying to go through Holmfirth ... ”





Parking 7.55% (28)

“ ... Monitor and restrict parking outside of marked bays (...) Other than disabled spaces in the centre, all vehicles should be parked in the car park ... ”

“ ... Total ban on parking in Victoria Street Enforce parking restrictions ...”

“ ... Park and ride with access to town centre along the river. (...) Encourage cycling with cycle parking spaces ...”

“ ... Increase parking (...) additional level over existing Crown Bottom /Co-op car park & extension of residents parking up Dunford Road ...”



Hollow Gate 6.74% (25)

“ ... Hollow gate already works as a Rat run' with cars speeding down there, any plans to create a new road would only encourage more vehicles to use the route, as well as destroying the character of Holmfirth ...”





Other issues ...

Pedestrians (26)

“ ... Pedestrianize centre ... ”

“ ... Pedestrians should have priority in all planning decisions, followed by cyclists. We should move to the post-car society ... ”



Cycling (4) and other transport (4)

“ ... Increased promotion and enablement of other forms of transport such as cycling , cycle paths, electric vehicles and motorcycles and increased pedestrian only areas ... ”

“ ... Look for ways to discourage short journeys for example encouraging children to walk to school rather than be driven. Invest in public transport and encourage cycling ... ”

“ ... Provide improved means of alternative transport e.g. community bus, cycle routes ... ”





Other issues ...

Other road programmes (5)

“ ... Consider the impact of improvements to the Woodhead Pass when completed before making major changes to Holmfirth road system. 20 mph limits through town ...”

“ ... Build a proper bypass to take traffic around the town centre (Not through on a different route)... ”

Safety (8) and Green Issues (3)

“ ... Make the future greener and less car reliant (...) it will only increase demand and result in similar issues again ...”

“ ... by the old tourism office I feel frightened to cross with my young children. Speed cameras (fixed) on approach to Holmfirth ... ”

“ ... Double yellow lines on all roads leading to town centre e.g. Upperthong Lane (...) becoming increasingly hazardous as workers park their vehicles to avoid paying parking fees ...”





SUMMARY - strategies

Responses referred to a **range of strategies for addressing the perceived traffic issues** in Holmfirth. These included:

The **Management of Traffic Flow:**

- by traffic lights; restrictions on HGV movements into and through the town; restrictions on parking on town centre roads; one-way systems, re-routing HGVs

The **Provision of:**

- better public transport; more parking; pedestrianisation; cycle routes; bypass for the town centre

Limitations on:

- development - Halting housebuilding (to restrict car numbers)
 - parking on streets in the town and approach roads
 - delivery times to shops
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Summary – Road proposals



Some respondents considered the proposals (as yet unpublished) to create a new road in order to ‘ease traffic congestion and flow through the town’ in their comments.

They divided into two broad groups:

Group One – those who appeared to support the idea of altering the Holmfirth roads and town centre, referring to:

- Knocking down the Market Hall, widening Hollowgate, creating one way systems and roundabouts etc.
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Group Two – those who suggested that the modification of the centre to accommodate better ‘through flow’ of traffic would have a detrimental effect in the following ways:



- Encourage greater traffic volume, particularly HGVs, isolate businesses, be detrimental to pedestrians and cyclists etc.

NB only three respondents referred to the importance of taking into consideration the Highways Agency plans for the A628 (or Tintwhistle/Woodhead) when looking at proposals for traffic management in Holmfirth.



MARKET HALL – responses

- Q1: Do you think there should be a market in Holmfirth?

'Yes' - 94% No 6%

- If 'Yes', where should the market be? : **Market Hall - 70%**

Elsewhere 30% ... for example:

" ... On street in Hollowgate ..."

" ... Could also be held in other under utilised buildings ..."

" ... Needs to be central where there is passing footfall. NOT the Civic Hall, ..."

" ... The bus station car-park ..."

" ... Crown bottom carpark, next to rear of the Postcard pub ...)"

" ... Somewhere nearer car parking as I am disabled ..."

" ... If has to be moved needs to be in the centre of the village ..."

" ... Outskirts where quieter ..."

" ... Open air market could be set up (...) A permanent indoor market probably isn't viable ...)"



Q2: **What sort of markets** would you like to see?

- Food (various) 56.72% (151)
 - Local (produce of all sorts) 27.15% (101)
 - Farmers 23.12% (86)
 - Craft Market 13.17% (49)
 - Fruit 12% (45)
 - Mixed Variety 6.15% (24)
 - Clothes 5.65% (21)
 - Traditional Outdoor 4.03% (15)
 - Second Hand 3.23% (12)
 - Good Quality 2.42% (9)
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Q3: If the Market Hall is not to be used for a market, **what do you think should be done with it?**



Respondents offered a wide variety of suggestions ranging from:

... **selling it off** Sold 1.97% (7) , **knocking it down**, Knocked 6.20% (22) Demolished 8.73% (31) **doing nothing** Think it should Remain 0.56% (2)

... **to different public** Social 1.41% (5) Community 11.83% (42) Arts 4.23% (15) Museum 2.25% (8) Play Gym 1.41% (5) Kids 1.13% (4) Play Area 0.85% (3)

... **and private uses** Shops 10.14% (36) Retail Units 2.25% (8)



“ ... It could be developed along the lines of the now famous Altrincham Market - a different focus on each opening day of the week. Continental uses include small café areas offering different types of food - That would bring in the punters!! ...)”



“ ... Knock it down and turn the area into a park, market garden or something similar. Open up the river as an attraction ...”

“ ... It's an ugly building but has been valuable for festival events. With a little renovation, could be a good venue for music/arts events, pop-up shops and markets ... “

Some respondents referred to parking, road and traffic issues in relation to the Market

- Traffic 3.10% (11) New Road 2.54% (9) Bridge 0.85% (3) Bypass 85% (3)
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KEY MESSAGES FROM HOLMFIRTH PEOPLE



- **Holme Valley People** are thoughtful, intelligent and **have valid opinions** – they deserve listening to and their **views should be respected**. They care very much about their town, their community, their environment.
 - Holme Valley people **share a vision of how much could be improved**, not only through modest investment but also through imaginative policy making.
 - **Kirklees has failed to listen** to local people properly and **invest in the Valley** for years. **This needs to change**. Investing in the Valley would have **benefits for the whole of Kirklees**. For example, the market could be thriving and contributing to Kirklees' coffers.
 - **A proper diagnosis of the problems** to be solved should be carried out before any infrastructure work is done. Then small scale **actions taken to see if they would make a difference** (e.g. British Cycling).
 - Any **changes should be primarily for the benefit of people in the area**, rather than for the benefit of through traffic
 - **Greater cognisance** should be taken of the wider traffic situation i.e. A628 improvements and action taken further away to discourage cross Pennine traffic from coming through.
 - **If Kirklees fails to respond adequately it may be necessary to talk to significant others e.g. West Yorkshire Combined Authority – Transport Fund - about these issues and their solutions.**
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